





## MISCELLANEOUS.

## FACTS VERSUS MORBID FANCIES.

BY REV. D. DORCHESTER, D. D.

"The enemy has discovered the decline of our power." "We are not the thundering and conquering legion that we were a generation ago."—*Dr. Steele's "Bugle Call."*

We are fond of good music. We enjoy the stirring performances of brass bands. We especially delight in the clarion notes of the bugle; but a tin horn is a different thing altogether; and even a golden bugle must be touched by a discriminating hand, or it will give forth uncertain sounds.

I think we are all ready to confess that Methodism does not make so much noise as in some former periods. The *legio tonans* has nearly disappeared from the itinerant army; but we have not ceased to progress and to triumph. Nor has our progress relatively declined.

"A generation ago," I have very distinct recollections of that time—when our much-loved Dr. Steele and myself entered upon our ministerial career. These are hallowed recollections of that period, and a halo still encircles it; but I have clear impressions of the severe struggles, the long and severe conflicts, which our cause then endured; of the slow progress which it made; of the long and painful decisions, extending through months, and even successive years, in numerous Churches; of the small attendance upon public worship, at prayer and class-meetings; of the scandal and bickering among brethren and sisters; of the sighings over the decline of piety, and the creaking over the departure of old-fashioned Methodism. History often repeats itself, and old diseases break out afresh. Croakers see only gloom in the past, and desolation in the present. It was always so.

I have the sincerest sympathy with a considerable part of Dr. Steele's article—the call to greater devotion and for a richer baptism. That is what we all want. It is always appropriate, and should transcend all questions of definition and terminology. The fire must be kept ablaze; and wherever it has died out, it must be kindled anew. We cannot keep house, ecclesiastically, without fire. If others think they can, let them try it. Methodists cannot. But I am always sorry when brethren cannot find sufficient motives, in the fundamental truths and facts of Christianity, for their appeals and exhortations; and, especially, when they carelessly (I will not presume that it is done purposely, for I know it is not) belie the present and the records of the past, and represent everything as going to ruin, in order to arouse their brethren. I do not believe there ever was a time when Methodist ministers labored with greater fortitude, with truer devotion, and greater average success than now.

Twenty-six years passed, after Methodism entered Springfield and organized a class, before seventy-five members were reported. I have carefully collected data of numerous other towns in our State, where, in twenty-five years, there was not a gain of twenty-five members. I have old class papers dating back in the first quarter of this century, the period referred to in the two preceding sentences, with the attendance of the members carefully marked, where the average attendance ranged only from one-sixth to one-third. The gains in the first thirty-five years of this century were slow in the individual Churches. New circuits and new societies were added to the list, swelling the grand aggregate, but the local societies struggled slowly through long periods, with only occasional special revival seasons.

But how about that period, "a generation ago," to which Dr. S. refers? Immediately on reading this allusion, I took my "Minutes," accidentally opened to the New England Conference for 1849, and found in our whole Conference a decrease of 277 members. In 1848, there was an increase of only 28; in 1847, increase only 44; in 1846, increase, 363. I turned back ten years, to 1838, when the increase was 1,135; to 1837, when there was a decrease of 262; and to 1836, when the increase was 911. This is enough to show how the cause advanced, as a whole, in the Conference; that there were periods of reverse and declension; and that the gains were not so great as to indicate such glowing triumphs as Dr. S. imagines.

Look, now, at isolated localities. Take ten cities—Boston, Lynn, Charlestown, Cambridge, and Springfield, in the New England Conference; and Providence, New Bedford, Newport, New London, and Provincetown, in the Providence Conference—and trace them through fifty years. From 1828-1829, four of these cities decreased in Methodist communicants, one just retained its numbers, and the other five gained. From 1836-1838, five increased, five decreased. From 1846-1848, seven decreased, and three increased. From 1856-1858, all increased. The great revival of 1857-8 accounts for it. From 1866-1868, two decreased and eight increased. From 1876-1878, one decreased and nine increased. Combining the last three periods, there were only three cases of decrease, while twenty-seven increased. Combining the first three periods, sixteen decreased, and thirteen increased, while one just retained its numbers. From 1828 to 1838, there was an increase of 1,872 members; from 1868 to 1878, the increase was 4,699.

Making the comparison in another form, we have in these ten cities:—

From 1826 to 1828, total gain, 263.  
" 1836 to 1838, " gain, 128.  
" 1846 to 1848, " loss, 217.  
" 1856 to 1858, " gain, 1,402.  
" 1866 to 1868, " gain, 707.  
" 1876 to 1878, " gain, 697.

Aggregate gain, in the first three periods, 173. Aggregate gain, in the last three periods, 2,806; or sixteen times greater than in the first three periods. From 1830 to 1875, the population of Massachusetts increased from 610,408, to 1,651,912, or a little more than two and a half-fold; but the membership of the Methodist Churches, in these ten cities, increased from 2,252 to 14,112, or nearly seven-fold.

It may be said that the population of these cities has increased more rapidly than the average for the State. Taking the above seven cities, within the State of Massachusetts (not having the census of Rhode Island and Connecticut for the earlier dates, Providence, Newport and New London must therefore be omitted), and we have an increase from 98,471, in 1830, to 483,662, in 1875, or not quite five-fold, while the Methodist communicants increased almost seven-fold. Boston has changed its territorial area, but the communicants have been carefully selected within the population with which they have been compared.

Nor should it be thought by any one that the lists of members were formerly more closely scrutinized, in making up the annual reports, than now. We believe that the lists of probationers, especially, were then made up, after revival seasons, with less discrimination than now; and that that weak ambition of some preachers to report a large increase was far more common then than now. And we know, as a matter of fact, that within a few years, since the practice of apportioning amounts of money to be raised per member has obtained, there has been a more rigid revision of our lists of members than ever before, many Churches having ceased to count, in making up their annual statistics for Conference, large numbers of non-resident members. Numerically, then, our lists are more exact than formerly.

I have nothing to say in extenuation of any existing evils or unfavorable tendencies. Our duty is plain, in that regard, to rebuke evil, to warn, exhort, and correct the people. We are entrusted with great responsibilities, and must be faithful to them. But morbid piety will not help the cause, and croaking never did, and never can. We have many noble men—ministers and laymen—who, in the present financial straits, are staggering with heavy burdens, and ought not to be pressed with one additional straw of discouragement. They need tonic to strengthen them. If, by wisely-directed efforts, we can lead them to drink deeper from the river of life, and find their souls more closely with the great truths and promises of the Gospel, we shall effectually strengthen them to stand, to withstand, and to triumph.

## FALLING OFF IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

BY REV. O. H. JASPER, D. D.

Some of the newspapers of this State speak of a falling off from the temperance pledge in their localities. And it is no new thing that has happened to those communities. It has occurred in other communities; it has happened many a time. This is the usual, and, perhaps, inevitable reaction that follows the excitement. The "reform-club" movement has had a long and successful run. It has had a wide field and done a large amount of work, and has done it well so far as it has gone. And this is written in no spirit of complaint or criticism, but of suggestion. To say this reform-club work might have gone further and done better, is not to condemn what it has done. It is well to drive nails in a sure place, and far enough to clinch, and then to clinch them. And a nail well clinched in sound stuff will stay till the material decays. To say that it is to be expected that some will fall away in all such cases, is, I suppose, to speak after the manner of men, and to speak of man's work, not always thoroughly done. Why should it be so? At least, if it is so, let it be from the decay of strength or loss of force, and not from a lack of service.

How wide-spread this falling off is in the localities referred to, we are not told, but we are led to infer that it is very considerable. We infer this more from the character of the papers referred to—at least in one case—than anything said. It takes "considerable" to move some of these New Hampshire editors upon moral questions. They generally prefer that they should not be stirred up at all; and they can stand almost any amount of moral declension in the community without seeing it, and after this, if it is of the right kind—and temperance declension usually is—they can enjoy it a good while without speaking of it; and not till it reaches a point of danger to person or party, and their toes have been well trodden on, will they say a word. They have not yet said much, measured by the seriousness of the matter or the time they have had to think of it, but for the parties referred to, it is quite an unexpected, though not a very hopeful, beginning. Party haggling and hacking must consume the time, whatever becomes of morality or humanity. Enough, however, has been said, if regarded, to set the friends of temperance to work. The enemy's extremity is our opportunity. When their strategy fails, our artillery must open. Or this matter of falling

off, now as at other times, shows the value of the prohibitory principle, and advises our remedies; and that is just the time to offer them. It is no new thing. More than seventy-five per cent. of the reformed men in the Washingtonian movement fell off.

The most curious part of this performance, however, is the method of cure proposed. This is done indirectly, to be sure, and under cover of accounting for the painful fact. It is fair, no doubt, in all such cases, to conclude that if we ascertain the cause of the evil, and remove it, we have effected a cure without medicine. So now; and why not? If we remove the cause of this falling away from the pledge, shall we not cure the evil? Surely there can be no progress either way, up or down, backwards or forwards, without a cause, and when that is removed, motion is at an end. And the man who makes a valuable discovery, in medicine or morals, ought to have full credit, and if there is any profit he should share largely in that. Only two prescriptions for this malady have been noticed, and these under the pretense of giving the cause. It is necessary to call attention to only one of these. We do not undervalue the other, but it lacks the depth of penetration and originality of thought which would be necessary to commend it to our thoughtful community. The remedy I am about to name is unique, original and profound.

By this time the reader's mind must be prepared to receive it, if it ever can be. To come at once to the announcement, then, this falling away from the temperance pledge, so solemnly taken and bravely kept for weeks, months, and in some cases, years, has been caused by the prosecution of rum-sellers! This fact, if it be one, ought to be made very emphatic in its announcement to the world. And if it be so, the remedy is very easy, and judging from the general course of events of this kind and the conduct of prosecuting officers in this State, it is naturally suggested and easily administered. It is only necessary to stop, and the evil is removed. And this stopping is what we are strongly addicted to. The evil complained of is quite noticeable, but the cause assigned is rarely heard of. To any but a profound intellect the cause, as it exists in this State, would be regarded altogether too mild and intermittent to produce such results. Indeed, the evil is painfully common to the least thoughtful observer, but the cause or cure is of the very rarest occurrence. And when rum-sellers are prosecuted at all, it is so mildly done that it helps, by way of advertising, more than it hurts them; and, in general, it reacts more to the hurt of the mover in the matter than to the criminal. These prosecutions occur very rarely, and then the law touches them as lightly as the most adroit lawyers can make it, even the officials not refusing their aid.

Within a year a rum-seller in one of our counties pleaded guilty to nine indictments found at one session of the grand jury; and he was fined only fifty dollars, which was the prescribed penalty for a single offense, and the first offense. Why, he didn't seem to know it! Very likely his bar-tender sold enough while he was in court to clear that off. There were penalties enough in that case to have shut him up, but it was not done. Now, considering the mildness of the prosecutions and the rarity of their occurrence, no wonder it takes a profound thinker to cipher out such results! But how can we doubt it? The editor of one of the leading papers in the State says so, and the party he leads is the "party of moral ideas." And this same editor was a member of the "House" last summer and favored the modification of the prohibitory law in its vital point—the moiety clause. He made a speech in which he claimed that this clause placed the power of reform in the hands of low characters, and therefore ought to be repealed. This same profound moralist claims to have professed in the late war. And to be consistent he must have only very high-toned gentlemen to fight rebels, because to do otherwise would lower the dignity of so worthy a cause. And he must have very high-toned powder and respectable shot. Nor is it likely that he would allow very many cur that comes along, no matter how opportunely, to kill the wolf that attacks his flock; not likely. And after all, it seems difficult for a common mind to understand how anything can be too mean to stop rum-selling!

More soberly, if possible. If we dared to presume to make a suggestion so profound a subject and on which so astute a thinker has just expounded such an amount of intellectual force, it would be that the thinker is either too deep or too thick for his theme. If the former, he has gone under; if the latter, he is impenetrable; and he has, therefore, in one unaccountable way, placed the vehicle before the animal. The thing really needed to save these reformed men, is the closing up of the liquor shops. It is the very height of absurdity to expect men who have long cherished the appetite for intoxicating drinks, to subdue and thoroughly master it with all its familiar associations assailing them at every turn. And this is the testimony of good common sense everywhere. That the prosecution of liquor-venders should cause a relapse, or lead a man or masses of men to break their solemn pledge, to abandon a life of sobriety and return to drunkenness, is the merest twaddle. It not only shows that a man has a cause to serve, but shows what that cause is; and it is not temperance.

These reformed men are not much in sympathy with the men who rob and ruin them. If they go back to the old embrace, it is from the force of an old appetite too strong for the weak-will-power. Remove the lure, take away the charm, close up the gulf of ruin, and he is safe. The reformed men of this State are fast coming to see that this is just what is needed for the safety of themselves and the stability and progress of the cause of temperance. They are nearly done with speculations and "sussions;" for these bring them no nearer the end. One rises, but another falls. The traffic is not checked. The rule is still at flood, and with no signs of abatement. We must strike at the root of the tree if we would destroy it. The rum-sellers of this State are active, tireless, calculating and determined men. We shall continue to bury our proportion of the sixty thousand drunkards annually while they continue to rule the State. How long must it be?

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## CHIEFS FROM THE DES MOINES CONFERENCE.

Methodism has had a marvelous growth in the great State of Iowa, and especially in the western half of the State. In proof of this one needs but glance back over the history of this Conference, and note how rapid has been the growth of Methodism within its borders. About eighteen years ago, a handful of ministers belonging to what was known as the Western Iowa Conference, assembled in the village of Indianola, Warren County, Iowa, under the presidency of Bishop James, to organize a new Conference, to be known as the Des Moines.

The circumstances under which this new organization was effected, held forth but few temporal inducements to the noble few who identified themselves with it. The sacrifices which these men were making were of no ordinary character. They were leaving a comparatively well-organized Conference, with many desirable stations and circuits, scattered throughout the oldest and wealthiest portion of the State, for a new, sparsely-settled region, vast stretches of it uninhabited, the greater part settled by pioneers in the true sense of the term, without railroads, and often without even the ordinary wagon roads; having but two or three churches worthy of being called stations, and, in fact, all nothing but mission fields.

But these men had strong faith in the future possibilities of Methodism in this part of the State. They also had great faith that God would be with them and give them success in their endeavors to develop these possibilities. This faith, joined to a heroic determination to succeed, enabled each of these men to go forth from that first Conference session, wonderfully endowed for their work. How well this faith was founded, and how grandly God has honored it, the exhibit of the Des Moines Conference to-day bears testimony.

On the 18th ult., this Conference assembled in the town of Atlantic, Iowa, under the presidency of Bishop Peck, to hold its 18th annual session. In many respects it was the most pleasant and profitable session in its history. Under the guiding hand and godly counsel of our venerable Bishop the tide of spiritual blessing and holy power rose higher and higher. Many of the preachers received the baptism of the Holy Ghost and power during the morning prayer-meetings, which were a marked feature of this session. This careful attention to the spiritual interests of the Conference did not divert attention from its business interests. Never have we seen the Minute business more carefully considered and yet so rapidly disposed of. The reports were all encouraging. Over three thousand were reported as having been converted and added to the Church during the year, the most of whom have been brought into full connection. The benevolences of the Church have, as a general thing, been carefully looked after; yet under the terrible financial pressure of the year, there was a decided decrease in the collections for the missionary and Church Extension societies. Our aggregate missionary collection amounts to over \$5,000, a decrease of about one thousand dollars, while the per cent. of decrease in Church Extension collections is much larger. However, we hope to see our credit retrieved next year; at least such is the expressed determination of the Conference. Under the stimulus of this promise, our good brother, Chaplain McCabe, who grandly represented the interests of the Church Extension Society, refrained from giving us the time-honored (and richly-deserved) drubbing for our delinquency.

We repeat the statement with which we began this article: The growth of Methodism in the western half of this State has been marvelous. So rapid and solid has been this development, that the General Conference of 1872 thought best to divide the territory occupied by the Des Moines Conference, and create a new Conference, to be known as the Northwest Iowa. This took from our ranks a large number of our members, among whom were some of our ablest men and most successful workers. Notwithstanding this loss, the six years' labor since this division has been so abundantly prospered by the Lord that we now have 145 circuits, stations, and about 150 ministers in full membership in the Conference. Although next to the youngest Conference in the State, we stand at the head of all in point of growth both in our ministerial and lay membership.

We do not mean to say that the territory occupied by this Conference is fully developed. We are only just beginning to develop it. There are abundant opportunities for heroic work and sacrifice for God and the Church. One of our Presiding Elders in his report says: "My district embraces a district of country averaging sixty miles wide by one hundred and ten in length. I have held, on an average, two quarterly meetings a week during the year; have preached about three hundred and sixty-five sermons, and traveled from 6,000 to 7,000 miles." Another says in his report: "My district spreads over nearly all of six counties and a part of four others, making an area of about six thousand square miles, with limited railroad facilities. I have held 106 quarterly meetings, and preached 290 times; have traveled about 7,000 miles, nearly 6,000 of which were on horseback, and have not missed the first appointment."

This wonderful teller is one of the oldest men in the Conference. The "trunk" in which he carries his necessary outfit is a pair of genuine, old-fashioned saddle-bags, which began to see service about forty years ago, when their present owner entered the itinerancy in the Central Ohio Conference. We would like to see Dr. Trafton's saddle and to see this venerable man, traveling from

charge to charge in primitive Methodist style (often absent from home for two and three weeks at a time), doing grand work for the Church. He is a true representative of the fathers of Methodism. May God bless them all and long, preserve them to the Church!

A college seems to be considered a necessary adjunct of a Conference. How to establish such an institution is one of the first questions considered, and how to keep the institution alive and in running order continues to be the leading question, for, at least, the first twenty-five years of its existence. This Conference is no exception to the rule. Shortly after its organization, an institution of learning, having the grade of a seminary, was started at Indianola. From this embryo stage it advanced (very rapidly) to the higher grade of a college, and two or three years ago began to take strides towards the last stage (the goal sought by all its contemporaries)—a University. The history of our college is but a repetition of the history of scores of others—grand work done amid great sacrifices. Never was an institution of learning blessed with nobler, abler and more self-denying men than are those composing the faculty and board of trustees of Simpson Centenary College. Under the pressure of the times and the decrease in value of all kinds of assets, the liabilities of the college have been increasing at a rapid rate, until the report of the trustees this year showed the debt to aggregate about \$15,000. Well, it looked like a mountain. But it must be removed, and how to do it was the question of absorbing interest. All other business was dropped for the time being, and the college was put on one way to wipe out this incubus, and that was for the preachers to pay it, or, at least, the greater part of it. The Conference thought so too, and they did it. About \$11,000 was subscribed by members of the Conference, the most of it to be paid by the first of January next. So we can report our college safe. This leads us to suggest that if any Conference has an educational institution in debt, just petition the board of Bishops to appoint Bishop Peck as their next presiding officer. The debt will go, or else the preachers will remain to enjoy the hospitalities of the people—indeed!

But enough. When the hosts of Western Methodism assemble next year, look out for reports of grand victories from the Des Moines Conference. F. HARRIS.

## FROM WASHINGTON.

It is a pleasure to live in this beautiful autumn atmosphere. The sunshine is full of mellow, warm light, and each inspiration of invigorating air is fraught with blessing and happiness. Though now in the month of October, the trees are still fresh in their green foliage. The horse chestnut and oak show here and there a tinge of brown, and the hedges and the green of the hedges and the poplar, while now and then a yellow leaf from the cherry and maple flitting across our pathway tells us the season is really gone, although we are surrounded with all the beauty and freshness of the sweet spring-time.

The reception of a foreign minister at the Executive Mansion is quite a common occurrence, and yet the presentation of the Chinese Embassy on Saturday last, by Secretary Evarts, was something so different from the common order of things, that it created more excitement than usual. The nation from which the embassy came, the costumes worn, and the number and splendor of the attendant retinue, made this event a matter of curiosity and interest to the children as well as the grown people of Washington.

The reception was strictly private; only officials and a few reporters being admitted; but the people were determined to see the gay costumes and the strange people who wore them, and at an early hour the streets and grounds were thronged with eager watchers.

At eleven o'clock a handsome carriage drove up to the entrance of the White House, and Secretary Evarts stepped out, and assisted to alight his excellency the Chinese Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States from China, Chin Lan Pin, to alight.

Mr. Chin Lan Pin is a good-natured-looking old gentleman of about seventy years. His blouse of lavender silk, which came a little below his waist, had a collar of scarlet velvet, and was heavily jeweled on the breast. His skirt, which was of dark silk, and came nearly to his feet, was slashed, and showed underneath richly embroidered, baggy trousers. At his left side hung a heavy dagger, the sheath and handle studded with jewels and other precious stones. On his head he wore a pagoda hat, from which streamed a long scarlet plume fastened with a knob set with diamonds. His retinue, which consisted of dressed and rode in carriages following, accompanied by Mr. Bartlett, the American Secretary of the Legation.

The East room, the Blue room and the halls were beautifully decorated with plants and fragrant flowers. The members of the Cabinet were present. Mr. Chin made his speech through his interpreter, and the President answered through the same medium; and now we have, as a nation, the supreme satisfaction of being in diplomatic relations with the Celestials.

We have, also, with us the great English divine, Dean Stanley. It is a pity we hear so much and think so much about great people before we see them, for we are almost always disappointed when we come face to face. Dean Stanley is a small person, with slight, stooping figure, neat-cut, gray hair and whiskers of the English style, a face full of pleasant intelligence and dignity, and a voice not powerful but distinct. He uses no gestures when speaking or preaching. He stops with Sir Edward Thoroton, the British minister.

Our public authorities have, to use a slang phrase, "sat down hard on Cohen," the mad leader of the mob that paraded our streets and invaded our government departments, making threatening addresses to our heads of bureaus, and annoying and terrifying both the timid and the brave alike.

Cohen, while denouncing wealth in every form, and telling his followers that all things should be equal and each man have his right of goods, whether he earned them or not, rode himself in a fine carriage, dressed in a new suit of clothes, which his followers paid for, while his eight hundred adherents came after him dressed in rags, and covered with filth and dirt, crying, "We will die for Cohen!" Verily, the love of humbug must be innate in the human breast. But Cohen has "gone West," his band dispersed, and the disgrace of our city is abolished.

Large amounts are being raised for the yellow-fever sufferers. Some \$40,000 have already been sent South. Several of our brave men and women, who went down as nurses, have fallen victims to the disease. Only one escaped the fever. Several died; a few only recovered.

While we help the suffering and scourge-stricken, we bless the Lord that the lines have fallen to us in pleasant places, and that we live in a climate not only free from disease, but one that makes life a continual benediction. L. D.

## REVIVAL IN WASHINGTON.

Under the impression that it would be interesting to the friends of Rev. Thomas Harrison (the young evangelist), throughout New England, his native home, to learn something of his success among the Churches in and about Washington, I send this account of his work:—

Mr. Harrison's first appearance here was at Ryland chapel, last fall, where he conducted a series of revival meetings with great success in connection with Rev. E. D. Owen, D. D., pastor. At this meeting there were one hundred and fifty converts. These joined the Church, having generally stood out their probation, and about 130 of them have been received into full membership. His next appearance here was at Dunbar Street, in the ancient town of Georgetown in this district, where he appeared, and, for three weeks, the work of God progressed with wonderful power, and resulted in forty conversions.

Soon after this meeting closed, the Washington Grove camp-meeting was held near this city, and consisted principally of the Churches from Washington and the country immediately around. There were 200 tents, and 1,354 persons were converted, and 1,354 persons were converted upon the ground. These, in connection with those who came out from the city and returned every day, with the visitors from the surrounding country, gave a uniform congregation of about 3,000 souls. At this meeting Mr. Harrison labored with great acceptability to the people and the preachers, and with great success in winning souls to Christ. There were a large number of converts, and among them whole families who promise in the future to be great helpers in the cause of God.

After this camp-meeting closed, Mr. Harrison returned to Boston for a few days to visit his parents who are residents of that city, and to rest and recruit his exhausted strength. He returned to Washington on the 28th of August, at the request of Rev. John L. Latham, D. D., pastor of Foundry Church, and entered with him at once in conducting a protracted meeting at this church. The Foundry Church is the central and leading Church of Methodism at the national capital. The President of the United States and his family are constant worshippers at its altars, and many of the heads of departments are in its congregation, which is made up of a class of persons unsurpassed for intelligence and high moral standing in any community.

This protracted meeting soon developed into a most powerful revival, and for forty days and nights up to this time the most glorious revival that has ever occurred in Washington has been in progress here. Dr. Latham and Mr. Harrison have labored day and night. The principal work has been done by Mr. Harrison. He possesses a wonderful power in the management of the vast crowds that attend these services. He has evidently studied with some patience and care the master passions of the soul, and when he has the congregation aroused upon the subject of religion, he leads them to a decision by a sudden dramatic surprise. He seems to have carried art in this to something like perfection. This meeting at the Foundry Church is still in progress, with undiminished interest. Two hundred have been converted, and large numbers are seeking salvation at every meeting.

## Our Book Table.

We have a number of times spoken in commendation of the Speaker's Commentary, while the six volumes forming the exposition of the Old Testament were in the process of publication. It receives its title from the suggestion of its preparation by the late Speaker of the House of Commons, Right Hon. J. Evelyn Denison. It was his idea that there was a call for a sound and popular commentary, adapted to the wants of average cultivated English laymen, embodying all the accepted results of modern Biblical criticism, and bearing the authentication of the Bishops and clergy of the Anglican Church. The suggestion met with favorable acceptance, and the supervision of the whole work was placed in the hands of Canon F. C. Cook, of Exeter, and different portions of the sacred writings were allotted to some of the best Hebrew and Greek interpreters in the Church.

The first volume (the seventh of the series), upon the New Testament, is now issued, and is published by Charles Scribner's Sons in the same attractive style— with clear paper, large type, and broad margins, as the previous volumes. The volumes average about five hundred pages, and are sold for \$5.00. The General Introduction, which is very elaborate, and extends over seventy pages, is by the Archbishop of York. The comments and critical notes upon Matthew are by the late Dean Mansel and by Canon Cook, the editor, who also provides the critical commentary and notes upon St. Mark's Gospel. St. Luke is interpreted and annotated by Dr. Jones, of St. David's, and by the editor. The volume covers the synoptical Gospels. The idea of the work is amply sustained in the present volume. It is abreast of the present criticism, is sufficiently conservative, and presents in a condensed, clear style, the orthodox interpretation of the sacred historical records of our Lord's earthly life and sayings. We look upon this fresh exegesis of the Divine Word as a real addition to the critical and expository literature of the Bible. For sale in Boston by H. A. Young & Co.

Harper & Brothers issue another contribution to the increasing library upon plastic art. It is entitled, *THE CERAMIC ART: Compendium of the History and Manufacture of Pottery and Porcelain*, by Jennie J. Young, with 484 illustrations, royal octavo, 500 pp. The present volume is well adapted to be a text-book for the study of this beautiful, and, just now, very popular art. It gives a full history of it from the first periods, and as a lost art, gives its various species and classifications; then, in detail, describes the different national developments of the art—the Egyptian, Assyrian, Jewish, Oriental, Grecian, Medieval and Modern European. It has five very interesting chapters on American pottery, with a particularly extended one upon its rise, progress, present condition, and manufactures in the United States. The volume is itself a beautiful work of typography, and is an admirable book for reference, for reading, or for study on the part of students in the ceramic art.

The last literary work of the late lamented Dr. C. K. True was the preparation for the reading of our young people of two excellent little volumes, which have been handsomely published by Hitehook & Walden.

of the Book Rooms in Cincinnati. The preface of the volumes bears a date as late as June 18th. The first is the life of that brave and devoted old Covenanter, John Knox, whom Dr. True calls "the soul of the Scottish Reformation," and a full sketch of whose eventful life and stirring times he gives; "that the young who read may know how to value that religious freedom and independence we now enjoy, and learn for themselves to dare to be right and to be true." The story is well and attractively told, and is a condensed and clearly-written record of the great apostle of prison reforms, of his early history, the occasion of his mission to the jails of England, and the consecration of his life and fortune to the work of mitigating the cruelties of the cell, and seeking the reformation of the criminal. It is an excellent volume for the youth's library.

From the same publishers we have, A *Tractate on Justification*, by Rev. R. N. Davies, of the Illinois Conference. 16mo., 246 pp. This very useful little manual will be read with profit by any Christian student who wishes to understand the system of soteriology, accepted by Methodist Arminians. The fundamental doctrine of the Christian life is fully set forth, Scripturally defended and illustrated, guarded against what the author believes to be false opinions, and supported by many illustrations from the inspired Word. It is an excellent volume for the class-leader and Sunday-school teacher, and our young preachers every day find the reading of this little book a fine opportunity to refresh and strengthen their apprehension of the New Testament plan of salvation.

JOHN, WHOM JESUS LOVED, by James Culross, A. M., D. D. 12mo., 244 pp. This little volume considers the "beloved disciple," not controversially, but historically, and chiefly as set forth in the Gospel, in his letters, and in the Apocalypse. It does not seek so much to meet the difficulties suggested by modern criticism as to bring out every revealed incident in the apostle's life, and to illustrate and enforce the precious truths which he uttered, and exhibit the significance of the events with which he was connected. It is an interesting and very suggestive volume. R. Carter & Bros.

THE LIFE AND LABORS OF REV. E. M. MARVIN, D. D., LL. D., Bishop of the M. E. Church, South, by Rev. D. R. M'Anally, D. D. St. Louis: Lozan G. Dameron, Agent of Advocate Publishing House, 12mo., 390 pp. The death of the lamented Southern Bishop removed a very able and eloquent minister from his Church. He was educated without much aid from schools, a man of remarkable natural powers, availing himself of all possible opportunities for improvement, when he found his home called to him. He ran rapidly through all the grades of the Church until he became one of her chief ministers, bearing modestly, but without fear, the high responsibilities of his position. The life is rather an epitome of the ecclesiastical modes of Methodism, and an apology for that, as illustrated in the life of his subject. But it gives a sufficiently full sketch of the earnest and faithful minister, his labors, travels and eminent usefulness, forming a very interesting and valuable addition to our biographical literature.

THE SHIP MARY ALICE, by Thomas Atwood. Boston: Printed for the Author by Rand, Avery & Co. 12mo., 94 pp. This little volume, with its quaint simplicity, its evident relation of facts, its remarkable picture of the results of piety in the master of a ship, held up from the beginning to the end of its recitals, always interested and sometimes deeply affected. It has no grace of style, save that of charming naïveté. We trust the respected and venerable author will finish all his proposed voyages, if they are as grateful and profitable as this.

We find the following fresh musical works on our table: ONWARD, by L. O. Emerson. Published by Ditson & Co. This is a fresh book, by a master of his art, provided for singing classes and clubs. It is written for singers, and will be appreciated by them. WOOLLAND ECHOES, by S. W. Strout. Chicago: Jansen, McElrath & Co. Price 50 cents. This is a new collection of music for public schools and seminaries, with carefully prepared progressive lessons in the science and art of singing. It has an inviting look to one who is not an expert in music.

GLOUCESTER TEMPLE, BY SYDNEY SCHOOLS. Published by White, Smith & Co., Boston. Compiled by H. S. Perkins and W. W. Bentley. It is a crowded little book, full of melodies new and old, and looking confident of patronage. Who do buy all these juvenile song-books?

OUTLINES OF THEOLOGY, Rewritten and Enlarged by Archibald Alexander Hodge D. D. New York: Robert Carter & Brothers. 8vo., 675 pp. For sale in Boston by J. P. Moyle. The first edition of this work was prepared from the notes of discourses upon Systematic Divinity delivered to his people who were, for many years, helped by the life of his subject. His father as Professor of Systematic Theology in Princeton Seminary. The work, which when first published, as a very able condensation of the last expression of old-school Calvinism, had a wide circulation, has been largely rewritten and enriched from the latest studies and lectures of the learned professor, and may be considered the admitted standard of Princeton Calvinism of to-day. It is popularly written, in the form of question and answer, and outside of the special points of diversity between Arminianism and Calvinism, it is full of valuable discussions, presenting, in the strongest form, the orthodox interpretation of the doctrines of grace, the inspiration of Scripture, and the nature and eternal retribution of sin.

Harper & Brothers add to their Franklin Square Library, AMONG ALIENS, by Mrs. Frances E. Taylor. THE BURNING REBELLION, a Novel, by Katharine King; SELECTED POEMS OF MATTHEW ARNOLD. In their Library of American Fiction they publish LITTLE UNTO LIKE, a Novel, by Sherwood Bonner. In their Half Hour Series, as one of the English Literature Primers, we have THE CLASSICAL PERIOD, by Eugene Lawrence; and THE WORK OF A BACK STREET, by F. W. Robinson.

THE SPRINGDALE SERIES are six beautiful little volumes, published in specially ornamented covers. Their titles are: The Boy of Springdale, The Little Sand Boy, The Village Flower Show, Miss Trouble-House, Catherine's Peril, and Little Nellie. This fine box of books comes from the publishing house of Robert Carter & Bros., and is for sale by J. P. Magee, 38 Bromfield St., Boston.

NEW MUSIC. From Oliver Ditson & Co.: Instrumental—Smiles of Morning, by G. D. Wilson; Greeting of Spring, by Clement Schultze; Over Land, march, by Carl Faust. Vocal—The Everlasting Shore, words by Sarah Ann Stowe, music by Ciro Finelli; My Mother's Bible, words by G. Morris, music by A. H. Rowley.

## THE SUNDAY

Fourth Quarter, October 27.

BY REV. W. O.

DATE: A. D. 29 of

CONTENTS: P. 1. The

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Introduction: We

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1871











## THE WEEK.

DAILY RECORD OF LEADING EVENTS.

Tuesday, October 8.

The Pacific mail steamer Georgia has been lost. She struck on a reef in the harbor of Punta Arenas, Costa Rica. Loss \$400,000. The passengers, crew, and valises were saved.

It is reported that hostilities have begun in Afghanistan; the British have captured a fortress.

Rev. Dr. Nehemiah Adams, of this city, died Sunday night.

The Hotchkiss breech-loading gun has been adopted for the army by a board of officers selected for the purpose.

Hart, the Rockland, Me., murderer, was yesterday sentenced to imprisonment for life.

The Santa Cruz insurrection has been quelled, and the ringleaders captured.

Wednesday, October 9.

President Hayes has decided to send troops to New Mexico to quell the disturbance in that territory.

Iowa and Ohio went Republican in the elections yesterday; Indiana, Democratic. The Greenback vote was surprisingly light.

Twenty-two lives were lost, and about a hundred persons more or less seriously wounded by an accident on the Old Colony railroad, near Wollaston, last evening.

Mr. Tilden is placed in a very bad light by the New York Tribune's exposure of the cipher despatches used in the Presidential campaign.

Thursday, October 10.

President Hayes and party visited the home and tomb of President Madison, in Montpelier, Va., yesterday.

The Indians have committed terrible outrages in Kansas within a day or two. Twenty or thirty settlers are known to have been killed, and much property destroyed.

Intelligence has just been received from New Zealand that five Wesleyan missionaries have been killed and eaten by the natives.

Yesterday was observed as a fast day in Louisiana. There have been eleven thousand cases and three thousand three hundred and three deaths in New Orleans alone up to date.

Friday, October 11.

The juries in the case of the Adelphi disaster held Assistant Inspector Blake, Engineer Howland, and the steamboat company responsible for the accident.

It is reported that British troops have entered Khyber Pass (Afghanistan), and that all Mujahid will soon be attacked.

Biases in the province of Fu Kien, China, have burned schools and churches.

A gradually decreasing mortality is reported in the yellow-fever district. The epidemic is evidently expiring.

Saturday, October 12.

A terrible panic in a Liverpool (Eng.) theatre, last night, caused by a light and a false alarm of fire, resulted fatally in the case of thirty-seven persons, and in serious injuries to many others.

It has been decided that U. S. troops may be legally used to capture the fortified illicit distilleries in Arkansas, when the local authorities have exhausted their own resources.

There was an exciting scene in the German Reichstag on Thursday. A leading Socialist made a violent speech threatening bloodshed and revolution.

Monday, October 14.

A terrible storm of wind and rain visited this section on Saturday, the wind from the northwest driving the tide in from the bay almost to a level with the wharves, while off Cape Cod it became a gale. It was the worst storm for many years. There was much destruction among the shipping on the coast, and several lives were lost.

At Memphis the yellow-fever scourge is rapidly abating, but the disease is spreading in the country round about.

A serious fire occurred at Edinburg, Pa., yesterday morning. Buildings to the number of 225 were burned, and the town is almost completely destroyed. Loss about \$400,000.

Particulars of the terrible accident on the Old Colony railroad, near Wollaston, on the evening of the 8th, by which twenty-two persons lost their lives, and over one hundred received serious, and in some cases lifelong, injuries, have been telegraphed far and wide over the country. An excursion train of twenty-two cars packed with living freight, drawn by two engines, and running at a speed of twenty miles an hour, was suddenly arrested by a misplaced switch, and left open to allow a freight train to pass, hurried from the track, followed by the terrible crash, and wreck, and heart-rending scenes which usually attend such a catastrophe.

The conductor of the freight train, Charles M. Hartwell, has been arrested by direction of the Attorney General, on the strength of the report of the Railway Commissioners, who find, on investigation, that the disaster was primarily caused by reason of his disregard of well-known rules and criminal negligence.

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for the instruction of children; "Brother Raymond, the 'Results of Comparative Theology'; 'Brothers Savary and E. F. Clark, the 'Resurrection of the Body'; and 'Brother Leader the 'Relation of Works to Personal Salvation.' A very interesting blackboard exercise was given by Brother H. B. Cady, who can preach with his tongue or with his pen. Usual care had been taken by the pastor in preparation for the meeting, and the result was a most enjoyable as well as profitable gathering.

Brothers Wm. McDonald and J. A. Wood have concluded a week's labor at East Greenwich, their meetings proving a great incentive to higher attainments on the part of the Church.

The second of the series of union love-feasts was held at Hope Street Church, and brought together a host of Providence Methodists, who gave good ground for Christ. These meetings are a success.

Among the additions the first Sunday in the month were twelve at Warren, seven at Chestnut Street, twelve at Broad, and nine at Trinity.

The sixth annual meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Women was held at Providence Oct. 9-11, and brought together a large number of talented women from all parts of the country. Among the papers read were Miss May's on dress, Mrs. Owen's on the study of botany in the schools, Mrs. Forman's on co-education, Mrs. Fletcher's on women's clubs, Mrs. Brown's on motherhood physiologically considered, Mrs. Bristow's on woman's status in the grange, Mrs. Diaz on character, Miss Anna C. Brackett on Harvard examinations as a test, and Prof. Maria Mitchell on the eclipse and experience at Dover. These papers showed much originality and ability, as also the discussions which followed them.

NEW HAMPSHIRE. Glanville, Sept. 24th, the Methodist of Croydon gave a "Harvest Home" festival, which was every way a grand success. The town hall was beautifully decorated. Shelves of wheat and other grain, vegetables, and all kinds of fruit, covered the platform, and a large number were present to admire the scene and enjoy the very interesting exercises which took place. A bountiful supper was served; there were declamations and singing by the children; an original paper on the "harvest" was read by Miss Mabel Allen; the choir of the Church sang excellently a number of harvest songs, and entertaining addresses were made by Dr. Albina Hall, Hon. L. F. Cooper, and the pastor, Rev. F. M. Fiske. The occasion was one to be remembered with pleasure, and was a success, also, as regards the raising of funds for Church purposes.

Mr. John Jones, a veteran Methodist, and long a member of the Main St. M. E. Church, Great Falls, died recently at his home in that village, aged 73 years. He was a noble Christian man, generous to a fault, an ardent Methodist, a firm supporter of the Church, and a true friend always to the pastor. His memory is precious.

A semi-centennial meeting of the Sullivan County Bible Society was recently held in the Congregational Church of Claremont. There was a good attendance, and the exercises were of great interest. Rev. E. M. Palmer, of Meriden, presided. Rev. L. A. Austin, of Meriden, preached the opening sermon. An historical sketch of the society was read by Hon. Dexter Richards, of Newport. Among other essays one was read by Rev. Dr. Stevenson, of Claremont, upon "The Bible the Source and Support of our National Life;" and one by Rev. A. W. Bunker, of Newport, on "The Bible the Antidote for Skepticism." Both were listened to with close attention, and were warmly commended.

The 73rd annual convention of the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire, was held in Concord, Oct. 1-3. The Sunday school convention was presided over by Rev. Joseph Kidder, of Manchester, and closed its session on the evening of the first day. Wednesday morning Rev. L. F. M. Kneely, of Manchester, took the chair, and Rev. E. L. Conger, of Concord, was chosen secretary. The exercises of the convention were largely attended, were varied, interesting and profitable.

The annual convention of the Y. M. C. A. was recently held in Manchester. There was a goodly attendance of delegates from different parts of the State and considerable interest was manifested in the work of the Association. Quite a sum of money was raised to carry on the work, though less than the amount asked for.

Rev. H. C. Leavitt, who has been pastor of the Baptist Church of Newport the past six years, preached his farewell sermon on a recent Sabbath. His removal from the place is regretted by very many of his parishioners.

A prominent member of the M. E. Church of Sunapee, Mr. John Fitch, committed suicide recently by cutting his throat. He was probably insane. For some time he had been in feeble health.

The Churches of Lebanon until this season in sustaining a course of lectures—an excellent idea. Rev. Dr. Stevenson, of Claremont, lately delivered the first lecture of the course.

Gospel Hymns, No. 3, by Ira D. Sankey, Jas. McGraw, and Geo. C. Stebbins is now ready. The world-wide acceptance of Nos. 1 and 2 of this series of Gospel Hymns, and the demand for a fresh collection of the same character, have encouraged the publishers to send forth the third book. It will be found to contain a large proportion of new songs never before published, including several by the inspired Bliss, which have been reserved for this book, together with some of the most useful older ones: Biglow & Main, New York; John Church & Co., Cincinnati.

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WALTER BAKER & Co.'s Chocolate has been awarded a Gold Medal at the Paris Exhibition.

Monks & Kimberly, of this city, received an order this morning for a bell for a mission church in the interior of Africa. As the order reads, it will be the first bell in that portion of Africa.

N. R. H. BOSTON DISTRICT S. S. CONVENTION, at Hingham, Nov. 20. Program will be given next week.

Marriages. At Trinity M. E. Church, Cambridge, Oct. 10, by Rev. G. W. Mendenhall, Hugh Campbell to Liza O. Smith, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Campbell. In Wollaston, Sept. 17, by Rev. L. B. Bates, James H. Mendenhall, of Wollaston, to Miss Mary E. Bates, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Bates. In Wollaston, Sept. 18, by the same, Fred A. Corney to Clara L. Harding, all of Wollaston. In Wollaston, Sept. 18, by Rev. W. F. Bates, Daniel E. Richards to Miss Annie Taylor, all of Wollaston. In Wollaston, Sept. 18, by Rev. H. Mendenhall, Charles W. Eaton, to Miss Harriet Cowell, all of Wollaston. In Wollaston, Sept. 18, by Rev. W. F. Bates, Geo. E. Freeman to Miss Ella M. Cook, both of Wollaston. At the residence of Mr. R. H. Grosz, Brookline, Oct. 8, by Rev. W. F. Bates, William W. Mendenhall, to Miss Jane Mendenhall, both of Wollaston. In Wollaston, Sept. 18, by Rev. W. F. Bates, Edgar F. Mendenhall, to Miss Mary E. Bates, all of Wollaston. In Wollaston, Sept. 18, by Rev. W. F. Bates, Harry W. Mendenhall, to Miss Harriet Cowell, all of Wollaston. In Wollaston, Sept. 18, by Rev. W. F. Bates, Daniel E. Richards to Miss Annie Taylor, all of Wollaston. In Wollaston, Sept. 18, by Rev. H. Mendenhall, Charles W. Eaton, to Miss Harriet Cowell, all of Wollaston. In Wollaston, Sept. 18, by Rev. W. F. Bates, Geo. E. Freeman to Miss Ella M. Cook, both of Wollaston.

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